



Lake Park Villager

The official village newsletter of Lake Park, North Carolina

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March 2009

CLERK'S CORNER

Upcoming Lake Park town meetings:

April 14 – 7:00 PM Village Council Meeting

NOTE: Meeting will follow two public hearings: First to discuss the possible expansion to the Community Center; Second to discuss utilizing historically underutilized businesses as part of the process.

April 23 – 7:00 PM Economic Development Commission at 3316 Faith Church Rd

April 27 – 7:00 PM Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009 PROFESSIONAL LEADERS NETWORK WORKSHOP
MARCH 24, 6:00 PM, COMMUNITY CENTER

LAKE PARK PLUS (INVESTMENT STUDY –MEMBER NAIC)
APRIL 1, 7:00 PM, 4601 ROCKY FALLS DRIVE (BROOKSTONE)

LAKE PARK SINGLES (AGES 45+)
APRIL 2, 7:00 PM, COMMUNITY CENTER

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT
APRIL 4, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, TOWN CENTER GAZEBO

LAKE PARK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEETING
APRIL 7, 7:00 PM, COMMUNITY CENTER

LAKE PARK SAGES
APRIL 17, 5:30 PM, DINNER OUT

LAKE PARK GARDEN CLUB –AZALEA TOUR
APRIL 18, 10:00 AM, COMMUNITY CENTER

LAKE PARK SPRING YARD SALE
APRIL 18, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

LP TOWNHOME ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY BOARD MTG
APRIL 20, 6:30 PM, COMMUNITY CENTER

GIRLS ON THE RUN 5K AND KIDS CARE HEALTH FAIR
APRIL 25, 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

2009 Waste Collection Guidelines

New guidelines for waste collection and recycling were distributed to all residents with the February *Villager*. Extra copies are at www.lakeparknc.gov, and at the Village Clerk's office (Monday – Friday, 9am - 12noon)

Village Council and HOA

Part III: Representation

This is an ongoing education series on understanding distinctions between a Council and HOA. Last issue defined the distinction between a Public entity (Council) and a Private entity (HOA). In this issue we see how the election process differs for choosing public Council representatives and choosing property owners to serve on an HOA board.

Village Representation Every U.S. citizen, 18 or over, living within the incorporated village, may register and participate in the general election for municipal (Mayor and Village Council) representatives. Residents register with the county Board of Elections (BOE). Multiple voters may reside at the same property. Property ownership is not a requirement. However, citizens may only vote in the district where they live. Absentee ballots and early voting may be available, but voting by proxy is not allowed.

Candidates for public office must register in July with the county BOE to be included on the November ballot. Our mayor is elected every two years and the Council members for 4 years. Council appoints the Clerk, Finance Officer, and Village Attorney.

The NC School of Government provides annual 3-day workshops to specifically train newly elected officials in standard operating procedures required in public service. Clerks, Finance Officers, and Attorneys may also take similar training tailored for their roles.

Though salaries are typically paid to those in public service, Lake Park Mayor and Council members accept a token stipend in order to help keep the village tax rate lower. Clerk and Financial Officers receive part-time salaries. Sheriff Deputies assigned to Lake Park receive a full-time salary mandated by the County but paid by the Village.

Council meetings, held on second Tuesdays each month, 7pm, are open to the public. Meeting dates and minutes, ordinances, and other public information are available at the Clerk's office from 9a – 12 noon Monday – Friday, and are

Lake Park Village Government

Website: www.lakeparknc.gov

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Jo Waybright - Council

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Cheri Clark – Clerk/Tax Collector

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Cheryl Bennett, Financial Officer

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Deputy Ryan Tomberlin and Deputy Richard Haywood

Dial 911, Non-emergency (704) 289-1591

officer@lakeparknc.gov

posted on the public website www.lakeparknc.gov. In addition, Council emails are public records.

HOA Representation – Property owners, in good standing with their association dues, elect fellow owners to the board of directors of a Homeowner Association. Owners must be on record with the HOA as a having clear property title, but they do not have to reside in Lake Park. One ballot is mailed to each property and may be cast in person or by written proxy.

Candidates for the HOA board are nominated or may volunteer before or during the HOA's Annual Business and Elections Meeting. Directors are elected for a 3-year term and their association dues must be current. Though unpaid, board directors take pride in making good and fair decisions for their neighborhoods and in getting involved in activities to enrich a sense of community and to protect private property.

HOA boards may choose to contract with a management company for collection services and operations expertise. Management companies may provide orientation and guidance to acquaint volunteer directors with sound principles and practices.

HOA board meetings may be private, that is, limited to that association's owners. The Lake Park Master HOA board promotes events and information on their website www.lakeparknc.com, but may also reserve some web site features for owner-only access. Board emails are private records.

Next topic: Responsibilities: How and why Council and HOA responsibilities are separate.

New Stop Signs

The Council decided at its March meeting to make the western intersection of Mother Teresa and Conifer a four-way stop. They made this decision due to safety concerns and an effort to control speed on Conifer. The signs will be installed on March 30.

Vandalism Affects Everyone

The Council continues to address the effects of vandalism in various parts of the Lake Park. Council has seen damage such as: writing on public structures, breaking items from playing on brickwork and monuments, setting fires, throwing trash into fountains and ponds, and the general destruction of property. The Council diligently maintains our public areas to protect the beauty and property value within the village. Therefore, some of the tax moneys that all homeowners pay must go to correct these acts of deliberate damage. Since the village government must operate with a balanced budget, these funds will either come out of another needed line item or require a tax increase. These costs that directly impact you can be minimized by quickly reporting vandalism or suspicious activity. To do so, please call the Sheriff's office at (704) 289-1591 (non emergency) or 911.

For Your Information

2009 Workshop:

Growing Success in Lake Park

The Economic Development Commission presents its 7th Workshop for managers, owners, and key personnel in our local schools, businesses and churches Tuesday, March 24, 2009. Sharing a mutual interest in becoming a success in our community, representatives from each business, school and church will gather at the Community Center for a quick meal at 6p, followed by preview tours of three organizations that are also making a growing contribution: Miss Dee Dee's After School (new expansion), The Children's Lighthouse Learning Center (new business) and Image Salon & Spa (new owner and interior renovation). Interested in attending? Call EDC Chairs Sandy at 704-841-1370 x208 or Kendall at 704-882-8657. Program will end at 8p.

Street Lights at Clocktower

A little more than a month ago, a driver ran into the street light in front of the Community Center. This light was a controller for the other lights on that side of the road, and until it is replaced all lights had to be turned off. The Council is working with Union Power to get the special-ordered light fixture replaced. They expect it to be installed within the next month.